

# THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for local news in English

Caya G.F. Betico Croes 111 T. 588-9517 F. 5889518.

## Malaysia rejects jet 'debris' images and four-hour flight report



**KUALA LUMPUR** : A tourist ties a message expressing prayers and well-wishes for passengers onboard missing Malaysia Airlines (MAS) flight MH370 outside a mall in Kuala Lumpur on March 13, 2014. (AFP PHOTO)

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) - Malaysia said yesterday that satellite images of suspected debris from a missing jet were yet another false lead, and debunked a report the plane had flown on for hours after losing contact -- leaving the nearly week-old mystery no closer to being solved.

China had sparked talk of a breakthrough in the riddle of the Malaysia Airlines (MAS) jet with satellite images of three large floating objects near where flight 370 with 239

people on board lost contact on Saturday, en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing.

But Vietnamese and Malaysian planes that searched the area in the South China Sea yesterday found no sign of wreckage of the Boeing 777, which has one of the best safety records of any jet.

The US Navy Seventh Fleet also said that it did not have any evidence to corroborate the reports of debris spotted by the Chinese satellites.

Adding to the confusion,

the Wall Street Journal reported that US investigators suspected the plane flew for four hours after its last known contact with air traffic control at 1:30 am Malaysian time, based on data automatically sent from its Rolls-Royce engines.

The WSJ said US counter-terrorism officials were probing the possibility that a pilot or someone else on board diverted the jet towards an unknown location after turning off its communication transponder.

But Malaysia denied the report as "inaccurate".

"The last data transmission from the aircraft was at 0107 hours which indicated that everything was normal," Transport Minister Hishammuddin Hussein told reporters.

"Rolls-Royce and Boeing teams are here in Kuala Lumpur and have worked with MAS and investigation teams since Sunday. These issues have never been raised."

He added that China had told Malaysia that the satellite photos posted on the website of a Chinese state science agency were released "by mistake and did not show any debris".

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## Arikok Park organizes on March 18, 3rd National Bird Count

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SAN FUEGO - Arikok National Park and Aruba Bird Life Conservation invite everybody to participate in the 3rd edition of the national bird count on March 18.

Participation is easy and can be done with the whole family in the comfort of your own backyard. The bird counting process should be done between 7 am-9 am on Tuesday morning of March 18.

Participation forms are available at the following locations: Arikok National Park's Visitor Center in San Fuego (daily from 8 am-4pm), Superfood, main post offices in Oranjestad and San Nicolas, Tri-bike, National libraries in

Oranjestad and San Nicolas, Botica Maria, Botica weg Seroe Preto, Fort Zoutman and Santa Rosa. Very important, after the bird count, please drop off your filled out forms between March 19-28 at the locations mentioned above.

If you have an iPhone you can participate in the bird count via a free Taggird-App. You can download this app in the iTunes store.

More information on more than 100 bird species in Aruba can be found on www.arubabirdlifeconservation.com . More information about the National Bird Count and how to participate is available at www.arubanationalpark.org

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## FATF to focus on effective implementation of a compliant Aruba



ORANJESTAD -- The government of Aruba is not sitting on her laurels because of her compliant rating by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF); they are intent on continuing to make even more progress. Present at the briefing were the Center for Reporting Unusual Transactions (MOT), Public Ministry, Central Bank and member of the Anti-Money Laundering/Counter Finance of Terrorism Strategy Group.

The regular meetings will continue to prepare Aruba for the next round of evaluation and for the subsequent visit of the FATF. Secretary of Center for Reporting Unusual Transactions (MOT) George Croes, explained what the goals of the commission are. Croes indicated that having laws is not all, there must be the application of those laws and we must be able to show that the laws are producing results.

Aruba is complying with main recommendations.

*Continued on page 3*

## PRESS BULLETIN REGARDING DROUGHT ON ARUBA

Aruba is from the middle of 2013 till now in a mild to moderate drought. The drought index indicates that from May 2013 Aruba has entered a mild drought and remained in a moderate till mild drought ever since then. Looking at long-range forecasts it still does not look that we will exit this drought condition yet.

Drought indices are calculated for shorter periods 1-3 months and longer periods from 3-9 months.

Short period indices are more for agriculture and longer period indices are more for hydrological time scales.

If one looks at the forecasted drought index for 2014, and holding rainfall at normal values, it will still take some time to leave a mild drought.

Keep in mind that even if we have a couple of strong short periods showers that does not mean that drought is over.

Aruba has experienced other periods that we were in drought for a while, for example 2001-2002.

Normally Aruba's rainy season runs from September through January and Aruba's dry season is from February through August.

Most climate models indicate that rainfall amounts for Aruba should remain normal to a tab below normal for the period March 2014 to May 2014.

For the period May 2014 to August 2014 expect below normal rainfall totals. Therefore moderate to mild drought conditions is expected to continue.

Surface temperature should hover near normal for the period March 2014 to May 2014.

Sea surface temperature near Aruba should be near normal for the period March 2014 to May 2014.



## Malaysia rejects jet 'debris' images...

*Continued from page 1*

Authorities have chased up all manner of leads, including oil slicks, a supposed life raft found at sea and even witness accounts of a night-time explosion, only to rule them all out.

Malaysia has said that the plane may have turned back after taking off and military radar detected an unidentified object early Saturday north of the Malacca Strait, off west Malaysia, but it is unclear if it was the missing airliner.

The search for the plane now encompasses both sides of peninsular Malaysia, over an area of nearly 27,000 nautical miles (more than 90,000

square kilometres) and involves the navies and air forces of multiple nations. India deployed three ships and three aircraft to the remote Andaman and Nicobar Islands yesterday.

Theories about the possible cause of the disappearance range from a catastrophic technical failure to a mid-air explosion, hijacking, rogue missile strike and even pilot suicide.

The satellite information prompted the focus of the search to swing back yesterday to the original flight path, after a shift in recent days to Malaysia's west coast.

But later yesterday an official told AFP, under the condition of anonymity, that a US naval ship was headed west, from the Gulf of Thailand to the Strait of Malacca, "at the request of the Malaysian government".

The White House confirmed that new information had prompted authorities to examine an area to the west in the Indian Ocean.

Yesterday, Malaysia Airlines said it would retire the flight codes MH370 and MH371 -- the return flight from Beijing to Kuala Lumpur -- as a mark of respect.

**Early Bird Menu**

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

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FATF to focus on effective implementation...

*Continued from page 2*



Another law is "personen-rechts" (person's rights) such as AW and WA where certain deficiencies have been noted. The experts are studying what changes must be made here.

Despite the fact that Aruba is a small country, we are measured by the same standard as any big country. Even big countries like Japan have difficulty with compliance and only achieve "Partially Compliant" rating. The next round of evaluation will focus on Effective Implementation."

FATF will do its own evaluation as was the case in 2008. Members of the different member countries remain on Aruba for about two weeks. In addition to going over the 200 page questionnaire which gov-

ernment institutions must fill out, they conduct extensive interviews.

For the next evaluation FATF will reduce their recommendation from 40+9 to 40. On the other hand, they are also placing emphasis on the rules of the trafficking of weapons of mass destruction. Every institution involved in providing financial services such as Central Bank, public notary offices and representatives of Off Shore companies will be visited by the FATF.

Aruba's next major evaluation is planned to take place in 2019. Aruba must demonstrate our laws and statistics after which FATF will prepare their report which may be as lengthy as 300 pages.

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## Loyal visitors honored at the Marriott Surf Club



Recently, the Aruba Tourism Authority honored a group of loyal visitors as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The honorees have been visiting Aruba for 10 consecutive years.

The certificates were given to them as a token of appreciation for their love for our island.

They are Mr. Dan and

Mrs. Kathy Mazzaferro from Swampscott Mass., Mr. Les Dole and Mrs. Janice Butterfield from Methuen MA., and Mr. Andy and Mrs. Janet Pace from Pearland Texas.

They are all members of the Marriott Ocean Club and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches and restaurants.

Being on Aruba and staying at the Surf Club is like being home for them.

The certificates were presented to them by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority in presence of Ms. Jenny Boekhoudt and Mr. John v/d Linden representing the Marriott Surf Club

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## Gismo is on the look-out for friends and family members



SANTA LUCIA -- We would like to introduce Gismo to you, one of the donkeys that has found a home at the Aruban Donkey Sanctuary. His mother was found wandering on a busy street two days before Gismo was born: a hazardous stunt that could have been fatal for the donkey as well as for drivers. After he was born Gismo has spent his days in the company of his mother and sister Cymbi. By now he is a big boy, who is strutting conceitedly among the rest of the group. In a few months' time, when he is one year old to be exact, this donkey will be castrated. That is necessary, unfortunately, to prevent inbreeding, another thing is that the donkey population should not grow out of bounds.

This beautiful donkey has been provided with a chip, just

like all the other donkeys. On the chip is information about the donkey and its medical history. The donkeys at the sanctuary have a lot of friends with whom they can play all day long. And they love living there: they are well-cared for, they are fed and watered and when they are sick the vet is called. Yes, they are expensive customers for the sanctuary.

Everyone is welcome to visit the sanctuary, which has opening hours from 9 am until 4 pm and in the weekend from 10 am until 3. Entry is free of charge and one can enjoy a soft drink, a cup of coffee or a refreshing ice cream. The volunteers of the sanctuary are hoping that somebody will adopt this friendly, lovely donkey. Of course the donkey will keep on living at the sanctuary, you only need to pay AWG 30,- per month for the donkey's keep. With this amount you help support the sanctuary as well as your own donkey. And you will receive a beautiful certificate and a super T-shirt and your name and photo will

Be posted on our website. So please call the sanctuary at 593-2933; you can also register via the website [www.arubandonkey.org](http://www.arubandonkey.org) or donate money on bank account number 40.03.025 at the Aruba Bank! Just do it! Would you like to follow the donkeys on Facebook: surf to Donkey Sanctuary Aruba please.

## "The Leader in You" Conference of New Life Tabernacle



The New Life Tabernacle is celebrating their 12th anniversary with a spectacular conference dubbed, "The Leader in You." The invited speaker is veteran leader and senior Pastor of the First Church of the Open Bible in San Fernando, Trinidad, the Rev. Cecil Quamina. Quamina's perseverance, and simple faith in the power of prayer and the work of the Holy Spirit to do the impossible, has enabled his church to grow in 1983 from a small group to more than 3000 active members today.

Many new churches were started and others revived because of Quamina's ministry.

As Pastor, his great delight is to see lives changed and souls saved. One of his greatest desires is to see the image of God reflected in the lives of His people. He also desires more unity and connection between churches.

"I believe that growth should be intentional, God wants us to multiply and replenish. All leaders should possess largeness of heart," says Quamina Rev. Cecil Quamina is married to Rev. Deborah Quamina and they have three children, Kezia, Luke and Sarah Lee.

The conference is scheduled to take place at the New

Life Tabernacle at the Certified Mega Mall's second floor. The date is March 14th from 7:30 pm to 9:30pm and will continue the next day, Saturday the 15th. Saturday the 15th special session for the Ministry to Men from 6:00pm to 8:30pm. The entire conference is free of charge.

For more information, call New Life Tabernacle at 582-8787. Come and discover the leader in you! from 9:00 in the morning to 12 noon. On Sunday, the 16th The general public is cordially invited to attend and participate in what is going to be a tremendous learning and uplifting experience!

## Loyal visitors honored at the Divi Phoenix

Recently, the Aruba Tourism Authority honored two very nice couples as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10 to 19 consecutive years.

The honorees were Mr. Marcello and Mrs. Maria Sciota from Ferrara Italy and Mr. Woody Whitbeck and Mrs. Linda Chadbourn from Pembroke NH.

All the honorees are loyal members of the Divi Phoenix and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants and casinos. Aruba feels like a second home, the people are like a family to them and the Divi Phoenix is their home away from home. The certificates



were presented to them by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mrs. Avril, Mr.

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## L.G Smith's Steak & Chop House celebrates 10th year anniversary

ORANJESTAD — LG Smith's Steak & Chop House restaurant is ready to celebrate its 10th year anniversary together with its customers. Throughout this month LG Smith's Steak & Chop House will offer different promotions to celebrate this special occasion. For the last 10 years LG Smith's Steak & Chop House has offered the Aruban community and international visitor's excellent service and exceptional culinary experiences. As a sign of appreciation for all the years of loyalty, support and trust LG Smith's Steak & Chop House offers a 3 course menu for only \$40 starting from March 10th till April 10th. What makes this offer even more special is that the second person can enjoy the same menu for only \$10.

Choose between Certified Angus Beef Petite Filet, Certi-



fied Angus Beef Delmonic Ribeye, Surf and Turf, Double-Cut Smoked Pork Chop, Grouper Fillet, Grilled Ashley Farm Chicken Breast, Linguini with seasonal Vegetables or Vegetable Wellington. Not to forget the great selections of high quality meat on the Selection Menu at an affordable price. The special menu doesn't include drinks. In order to provide a great ambience there will be live entertainment every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 6:30PM with Live Xpressions. The 10th per-

son who enters LG Smith's Steak & Chop House will participate in a raffle to win a \$300 gift certificate.

LG Smith's celebrates their 10th year anniversary and invites you to check out its remodeled interior and have a great time with your family and friends at the same time. For reservations call: 523-6195 or visit [www.lgsmiths.com](http://www.lgsmiths.com), or visit the LG Smith's Steak & Chop House facebook page and stay on top of all offers and last events.

**Comedy Tonight!  
Aruba Ray's Comedy Review  
brings laughs galore to the  
Marriott Resort**



**Joe List, Ray Ellin and Chuck Nice**

ORANJESTAD — An evening out that has become a must do at THE MORNING NEWS is to catch Aruba Ray's Comedy Review whenever the New York comic is "in town." Ray Ellin originally came to Aruba over a year ago as a vacationer, but was so taken with the island, he has returned on a monthly basis, now bringing his fellow comedians with him and staging a very pleasant distraction every now and then. Your host for the evening earned his moniker from his friends; because he was such a fanatic about the island, they dubbed him "Aruba Ray."

Ray has appeared on numerous television programs on Comedy Central, NBC, ABC, and CBS, and is the host of the new "Gong Show Live," a resurrection of the classic 70's television show. He was the host of the popular talk show "Late Net," and hosted the television shows "The Movie Loft," "Brain Fuel," and "New York Now." He also produced and directed the film "The Latin Legends of Comedy."

His easy and charming wit involves his audience to generate the hilarity, without being rude or insulting. This time around, Ray is staging his longest run yet, with no less than seven of his cohorts joining him in a round-robin playbill.

Through Sunday, visitors have an opportunity to catch the last few days of one of his most frequent returning performers, Chuck Nice. If you like to laugh loud and long, than don't miss his show! Chuck may seem to be angry about everything, but he really lives up to his last name. His hilarious observances about

aging, marriage, and whatever catches his attention always elicit plenty of belly laughs.

Back for another run, starting tonight, is Lenny Marcus, who has appeared on David Letterman's show, Comedy Central and MTV. Lenny likes to play the nerd, resulting in extreme entertainment for the audience. He will be sharing the stage with Ray until Wednesday, the 19th, and for the first time, Kyle Grooms, who has appeared on VH1, NBC's Last Comic Standing and the Chappelle Show on Comedy Central will join them on Monday, March 17.

Each night, three talented New York comics bring their special brand of adult humor to the new "cabaret" set up in the Marriott for this limit run show. The price of a ticket includes a \$50 Free Slot Play coupon and 20% discount at the La Vista Restaurant in the Marriott Resort. If you not tried one of their fabulous buffet nights, take advantage of this bargain.

Aruba has long been in need of a smart, sassy show to while away the evening hours. Aruba Ray's Comedy delivers!





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## Mark Zuckerberg says US government threat to Internet

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Facebook chief Mark Zuckerberg said yesterday he had called President Barack Obama to complain that the US government is undermining confidence in the Internet with vast, secret surveillance programs.

In a post on his own Facebook page, the founder of the huge social network expressed anger towards Washington, in what appeared to be a reaction to new revelations about US government surveillance.

"I've called President Obama to express my frustration over the damage the government is creating for all of our future," he wrote. "Unfortunately, it seems like it will take a very long time for true full reform."

Zuckerberg's comments come amid growing tensions between the tech sector and US administration over leaked documents describing the vast

surveillance ability of the secretive National Security Agency and other intelligence services.

"The Internet works because most people and companies do the same. We work together to create this secure environment and make our shared space even better for the world," he said.

"This is why I've been so confused and frustrated by the repeated reports of the behavior of the US government. When our engineers work tirelessly to improve security, we imagine we're protecting you against criminals, not our own government."

He added: "The US government should be the champion for the Internet, not a threat. They need to be much more transparent about what they're doing, or otherwise people will believe the worst."

The comments came a day

after a report citing leaked NSA documents said the spy agency had imitated a Facebook server to inject malware into computers to expand its intelligence collection capacity.

The report by former Guardian reporter Glenn Greenwald said the NSA had developed malware that allows it to collect data automatically from millions of computers worldwide.

Some of the documents leaked by former intelligence contractor Edward Snowden in recent months have said the NSA had access to servers of tech giants such as Facebook, Google and Yahoo.

These companies have strongly denied giving any access except under a legal requirement, and have said more transparency about the programs could reassure their customers.

## The Ukraine pleads for talks as stand-off turns bloody

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - The Ukraine's premier came to the United Nations yesterday to urge Russia to negotiate an end to the stand-off between their countries, as street battles in his homeland turned bloody.

At least one pro-Kiev protester was stabbed and killed in the eastern city of Donetsk when a demonstration in favor of Ukrainian unity was attacked by a Russian separatist crowd.

News of the death broke as Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk addressed an emergency session of the UN Security Council on the crisis opposing his interim government and the Kremlin.

Yatsenyuk said a negotiated solution was still possible, if Russia agrees to withdraw its forces from the Ukrainian region of Crimea and begin a serious diplomatic dialogue.

"We want to have talks. We don't want to have any kind of military aggression," he insisted, turning to directly address Russia's UN ambassador Vitaly Churkin.

Churkin ridiculed the idea that there had been an "idyllic situation" before the crisis, but said: "Russia does not want war and nor do the Russians, and I'm convinced that Ukrainians don't want this either."

The Ukraine and Russia have been locked in an escalating stand-off since February 22, when a street revolt overthrew the Ukraine's former pro-Kremlin president Viktor Yanukovych.

Russia's President Vladimir Putin refuses to recognize Yat-

senyuk's new pro-Western administration, and tensions are building between rival camps inside Ukraine.

The crisis could come to a head on Sunday when Crimea -- now occupied by pro-Moscow forces -- is due to hold a referendum on becoming part of Russia.

Yatsenyuk has a strong diplomatic hand. His government has been recognized by European powers, he won the full backing of US President Barack Obama in Washington on Wednesday and he is negotiating an IMF bailout.

But the facts on the ground favor Putin.

Russia's military is far larger than the Ukraine's, and Russian troops have already seized control on the Crimean Peninsula, home to a mainly ethnic Russian population and Russia's Black Sea fleet.

Moscow makes no secret of its plan to annex Crimea after Sunday's referendum, which Kiev and Washington have declared illegitimate -- promising the worst East-West split since the Cold War.

Meanwhile, in eastern Ukraine, rival protests between pro- and anti-Russian factions have turned bloody, threatening to draw the opposing security forces into conflict in the streets.

On Thursday, a 22-year-old Ukrainian was killed when a pro-Kiev rally in the eastern city of Donetsk was attacked by a pro-Moscow group, the first confirmed death since Crimea was seized.

## US death toll rises to 7 after East Harlem building explosion



**AFP photo shows firefighters removing debris from the smoking site of an explosion in East Harlem in New York City. At least 7 people were killed, according to reports, in Wednesday's explosion which collapsed two buildings on Park Avenue at 116th Street. In total, 68 people were injured in the explosion, including those treated by first responders, police said. Hospital officials had put the figure at 63.**

# Diana leaked royal directory to UK tabloid, court hears

LONDON (AFP) - The late Princess Diana leaked a royal phone directory to the now defunct News of the World tabloid, its former royal editor told Britain's phone-hacking trial on Thursday.

Clive Goodman said that Diana sent him the information by post in 1992, the year she separated from her husband Prince Charles, the heir to the throne.

"She was going through a very, very difficult time. She told me she wanted me to see the scale of her husband's staff and household, compared with others," Goodman told London's Old Bailey, where he is on trial.

"She felt she was being swamped by people close to his household. She was looking for an ally to take him on -- to show there were forces that would rage against him."

## US reports rare case of woman-to-woman HIV transmission

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A rare case of suspected HIV transmission from one woman to another was reported Thursday by US health authorities.

The 46-year-old woman "likely acquired" human immunodeficiency virus while in a monogamous relationship with an HIV-positive female partner in Texas, said the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The woman, whose name was not released, had engaged in heterosexual relationships in the past, but not in the 10 years prior to her HIV infection.

Her HIV-positive partner, a 43-year-old woman who first tested positive in 2008, was her only sexual partner in the six months leading up to the test that came back positive for HIV.

She did report any other risk factors for acquiring the virus that causes AIDS, such as injection drug use, organ transplant, tattoos, acupuncture or unprotected sex with multiple partners.

The strain of HIV with which she was infected was a 98 percent genetic match to her partner's, said the CDC in its weekly report.

The couple said they had not received any counseling about safe sex practices, and reported that they routinely had sex without barrier methods.

"They described their sexual contact as at times rough to the

Goodman is on trial for two counts of conspiring to commit misconduct in a public office, namely paying public officials for a royal phone directory, which he denies.

The 56-year-old was jailed in 2007 for hacking into the phones of members of the royal household, along with private investigator Glenn Mulcaire.

Goodman told the court that he used so-called Green Books and internal telephone directories containing contact numbers for royal staff and senior members of the household as a basis for his stories.

Asked by his defence lawyer how he received them, he denied paying for them and said one green book was given to him in 1992 by Diana.

"That arrived at my office in Wapping with my name on it. She had a (good) relationship with several journalists --

Richard Kay at the Daily Mail, Martin Bashir of Panorama," Goodman told the court.

Three years later in 1995 Diana would open up to Bashir, a journalist with the BBC, about the state of her marriage to Charles, in an explosive interview that ultimately led to their divorce the following year.

Diana, the mother of Princes William and Harry, was killed in a car crash in Paris in 1997.

Goodman was sacked from the News of the World after his conviction and it later emerged that the practice of phone hacking was widespread at the Rupert Murdoch-owned tabloid.

Murdoch shut down the Sunday paper in July 2011 after reports that one of the hacking victims was a missing schoolgirl, Milly Dowler, who was later found murdered.

## US backs less jail time for small-time traffickers

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The Obama administration on Thursday endorsed a proposal that would effectively knock nearly a year off the average sentence for small-time drug dealers in the United States.

Testifying before the US Sentencing Commission, which set out the proposal in January, Attorney General Eric Holder said the most serious drug traffickers would still face the toughest penalties once the changes are enacted.

"It would help to rein in federal prison spending while focusing limited resources on the most serious threats to public safety," he added.

If adopted, the change -- to take effect in November unless it is blocked by Congress.

Nearly half of the 216,000 convicts now in federal prisons are doing time for drug-related crimes, in a country that spends \$80 billion a year to lock up a staggering one-quarter of all the world's prisoners.



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Taj Mahal's Tai Choice is a great way to start the meal and be initiated into the joys of Indian cuisine, offering a diverse selection of traditional favorites. It contains hearty portions of Pakoras, crispy vegetarian fritters, Aloo Tikki, potato cutlets, Chicken Tikka, tender chicken breast pieces seasoned just right, and shaped and seasoned ground lamb, charmingly dubbed "Sheik Kebabs." All is served on a bed of sliced onions and brought to your table on a sizzling platter, and you will want to dish those sautéed onions on to one of their tasty Indian breads called Naan, leaving behind not a single crumb.

Main dishes are accompanied by a choice of rice, mixed vegetables rich with garlic, or Naan, plain, buttered, onion or garlic, and you will want to order an extra basket or two of this tasty delight, on which you can spoon your main course, as well. Poori is crispy fried naan, and most definitely worth the extra two dollars to sample with your meal.

Located behind the Royal Plaza Mall, Taj Mahal offers a dining experience that is truly out of the ordinary, they feature an excellent and tasty selection for vegetarians too. If you are a fan of Indian food, or have been toying with trying it, Taj Mahal is the place for a very affordable dining experience and the real deal!



Call 588-4494 for reservations.

## Trailblazer Uruguay plans legal marijuana sales by year's end

SANTIAGO (AFP) - Uruguay plans to begin legal marijuana sales of pot grown under government control by year's end, using cloned plants, President Jose Mujica said Wednesday.

Mujica, speaking to a local newspaper during a visit to Chile, said the process was complex because it was regulated by the market.

"We try to use what we have," Mujica told La Tercera daily, referring to land where the marijuana would be grown.

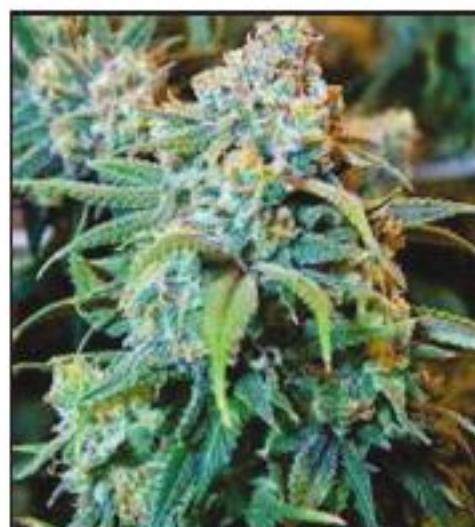
"It will be grown in one place, probably in an armed forces' facility. There will probably be private producers, but under certain conditions."

Predicting that sales would begin in December or January, Mujica said the marijuana would be cloned to reproduce the same genetic code, which would give the plants a clear identifier for tracking.

"We do not want to be producers for export or complicate the lives of our neighbors," said Mujica, a doctor by training.

"Regulation does not mean 'viva la pepa' (let the good times roll). No, no, no."

In December, his South American country became the first country in the world to regulate the market of sales of



cannabis and its derivatives in an plan considered a bold experiment by authorities frustrated with losing resources to fighting drug trafficking.

The law authorizes the production, distribution and sale of cannabis, allows individuals aged 18 and older to grow their own on a small scale, and creates consumer clubs -- all under state supervision and control.

Legalization of marijuana in the small country of just 3.2 million inhabitants has also drawn the interest of pharmaceutical companies around the world, who want to buy the drug for medical uses.

Prior to legal sales, the law regulating them is scheduled to come into practice by April, defining how planting licenses will be granted and what varieties will be grown.

## British woman jailed for microwaving kitten

LONDON (AFP) - A woman with mental health problems was on Thursday jailed for 14 weeks by a British judge for killing her kitten by cooking it in the microwave.

Laura Cunliffe, 23, admitted putting her black-and-white pet Mowgli in the microwave as punishment for attacking her goldfish, the court in Barnsley in northern England heard.

She put the microwave on for five minutes but after a minute took out the cat when she realised what she had done. The kitten died later.

Judge John Foster told her: "This was an act of utterly horrendous cruelty on your part on an animal that, as far as I could see, had come to trust you and rely on you."

However, members of Cunliffe's family reacted angrily to the sentence, shouting as she was led away in handcuffs that "she doesn't know what's happening".

Cunliffe's lawyer, Alan Greaves, said his client had longstanding problems with psychotic depression and had been sectioned under mental health legislation 20 times.

## Post-sex gel shows signs of promise against HIV

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A first-of-its-kind vaginal gel that is designed to be applied after sex has shown promise in preventing the virus that causes AIDS in research monkeys, US scientists said.

While testing is still at a very early stage, researchers hope the gel could be a more practical and effective option than current anti-retroviral gels on the market which must be applied before sex.

The gel was developed by scientists at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and contains a Merck-made drug called raltegravir which decreases the amount of HIV in the blood.

"What we did in this work was we identified an anti-HIV drug that blocks virus integration in the DNA," study co-author Walid Heneine told AFP.

"This is a prerequisite step for HIV infection, and that step takes at least six hours

after infection so that provides a wide window for dosing after sex."

The gel was tested vaginally in six macaque monkeys, and was applied up to three hours after they were exposed to simian immunodeficiency virus, which is found in primates and is like HIV in humans.

The study showed the gel prevented the virus in five of six monkeys, for an 84 percent effectiveness rate, according to the report in the journal *Science Translational Medicine*.

Work is ongoing to develop a rectal gel, too, Heneine said.

However, the product must undergo many more trials in animals and humans before it reaches the wider market, a process that may take five to 10 years, he said.

Until now all previous microbicide gels have been designed for application before sex.

## Nicotine patches no help for pregnant women who smoke



PARIS (AFP) - Nicotine patches fail to help pregnant women to stop smoking, according to a study published by the British Medical Journal (BMJ).

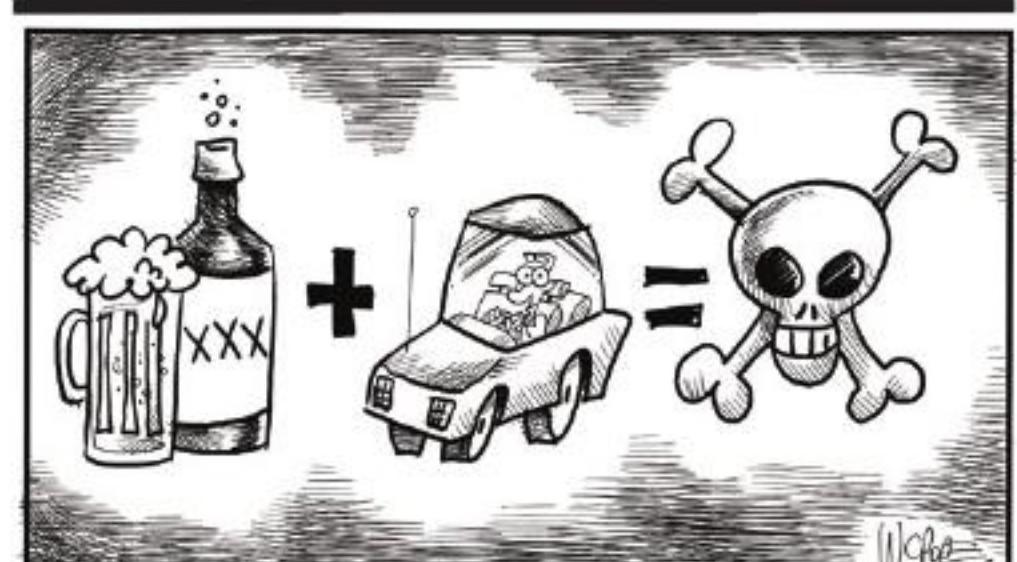
Researchers in France asked more than 400 women who smoked at least five cigarettes a day to try either a nicotine patch or a dummy patch called a placebo.

Only 11 women -- 5.5 percent -- in the nicotine patch group quit smoking by the time they gave birth, compared with 10 women, or 5.1 percent, in the placebo group.

The average birthweight of the babies was about the same in both groups, but blood pressure was significantly higher among the nicotine-patch users.

The scientists, led by Ivan Berlin, a pharmacologist at the Pitie-Salpetriere University Hospital in Paris, said they were disappointed.

The results show that drugs to help wean pregnant women off smoking do not work and "behavioural support" -- help from counsellors or quit-smoking groups -- remains essential, they said.



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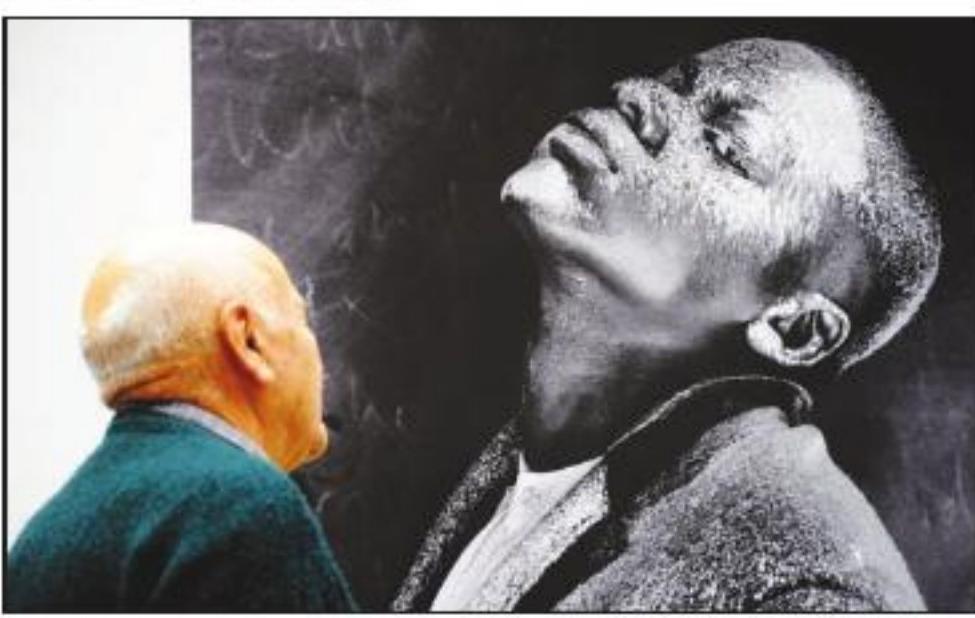
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**BRIEFS:**

**WASHINGTON (AFP)** - U.S. first lady Michelle Obama (R) and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey (L) welcome Kermit the Frog during a screening of Disney's "Muppets Most Wanted" at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building Wednesday in Washington, DC. The movie's preview was for an audience of military children and families as part of the Joining Forces Initiative.



**NEW YORK** - Former Secretary of State Colin Powell might be 76 years old, but he still knows how to take a great selfie and he's been taking them for way longer than most people. The four star general took to his Facebook page to share an old-fashioned selfie he says he took six decades ago for "Throwback Thursday," that's the unofficial social media tradition of sharing an image from "back in the day" on Thursdays. "Throwback Thursday - I was doing selfies 60 years before you Facebook folks," Powell said, adding: "Eat your heart out Ellen!" a reference to Ellen DeGeneres' celebrity-studded Oscars selfie that recently broke the all-time record for retweets on Twitter.



**QUITO (AFP)** - Visitors watch the World Press Photo 2013 exhibition in Quito, Ecuador on March 13, 2014.

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"Best Local Cuisine" Reviewed January 14, 2014

"Awesome local dishes!!" Reviewed January 11, 2014

"Great Food Friendly Service" Reviewed November 17, 2013

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**the Queen's Traditional Kitchen**

**Leopoldo Lopez: Venezuela blueblood, ardent Maduro foe**

**CARACAS (AFP)** - Leopoldo Lopez Mendoza, a Harvard-trained politician and ardent opponent of Venezuela's socialist government, is seen by enemies and supporters alike as the face of the month old street protests against the regime.

A former mayor of the wealthy Chacao borough of Caracas, Lopez has been targeted as public enemy number one by the government as it hits back against the latest round of high-stakes protests called yesterday.

Blessed with matinee-idol good looks and an easy smile, Lopez, 42, has a strong following in parts of Venezuela, winning his past elections by comfortable, and even overwhelming margins.

He has a long history of activism in the country's anti-socialist opposition, having been at the forefront of demonstrators in April 2002 that led to the coup that briefly ousted then President Hugo Chavez from power.

A child of privilege, Lopez was schooled largely in the United States, first at the elite Kenyon College in Ohio, before getting a master's degree at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

A political blue-blood, he is said to trace his lineage back to the country's first president Cristobal Mendoza, and reportedly also boasts blood lines to South American independence hero Simon Bolivar.

Mendoza is known as being impulsive and ambitious -- a dangerous combination of personal attributes for the current charisma-challenged President Nicolas Maduro, Chavez's handpicked successor.



The Maduro government is grappling with angry student protests orchestrated by Lopez that began on February 4 in the interior of the oil-rich country and boiled over in street clashes in Caracas that left 28 people dead and 365 injured.

Maduro's regime has issued a warrant for his arrest, where Lopez gave himself up to police in a dramatic fashion on February 18 in front of thousands of supporters after the authorities accused him of inciting violence.

Capriles, meanwhile, has distanced himself from "the way out" movement, warning that "conditions are not there to pressure for the government's exit."

The former candidate, who officially lost to Maduro by 1.5 percentage points, has said that in order to succeed, the protests need the support of the poorer neighborhoods that, for the most part, have staunchly supported first Chavez and now Maduro.

Analysts say that while Maduro is facing the biggest challenge of his young presidency, his government will likely prove sturdy enough to withstand the pressure.

His staunch opposition to

the government dates back to the regime of late firebrand president Hugo Chavez, who in 2011 barred him from holding political office for three years.

It was the second period of political banishment for Lopez. The government also accused him of influence peddling while working in 1998 as a manager at the Petroleos de Venezuela (PDVSA) state oil company, and in 2008 barred him from holding public office for one year.

Lopez served two terms as mayor of Chacao from 2000 to 2008. During that time he was dogged by corruption allegations and charges that he had misappropriated public funds. He has rejected all the charges against him as political persecution by the Chavez regime.

After being expelled as leader of the "Un Nuevo Tiempo" party ("A New Time") which he had joined in 2007, Lopez in 2009 he created his center-right Voluntad Popular or People's Will party.

Lopez and two other opposition leaders -- deputy Maria Corina Machado and the mayor of metropolitan Caracas, Antonio Ledezma -- advocate using street protests to force Maduro from office.

## Doping: Research breakthrough could help detect HGH

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A research breakthrough using the insulin-like growth factor IGF-1 as a biomarker could produce a better test for human growth hormone, anti-doping experts said Wednesday.

Research appearing in the latest issue of the American Association of Clinical Chemistry showed measuring IGF-1 could increase the detection of HGH doping by greatly enhancing the precision of laboratories.

The measurement uses a chemistry technique known as liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry and builds upon existing tests for HGH.

Researchers from five laboratories in three nations led by US Anti-Doping Agency physician Larry Bowers and funded by the Partnership for Clean Competition (PCC) began working in 2011 on more precise test methods for HGH.

"Not only are these research results groundbreaking but the selfless work and cooperation of the members of this working group, with the PCC's support, demonstrates the power of collaborative research," Bowers said.

"Bringing together top scientists and innovators in fo-



cused research to identify and resolve analytical problems is critical to advancing anti-doping science."

The PCC hopes the research will be used as the basis for tougher global sporting tests for growth hormone, used by dope cheats to build muscle in part by increasing concentrations of IGF-1 in the blood from liver response to growth hormone.

While an isoforms test has been successfully used to identify HGH dope cheats, it is limited by a short detection window.

The biomarkers test measures concentrations of IGF-1 and another protein produced by reaction to growth hormones and has a detection window of several weeks.

## New lizard species discovered in Peru



LIMA (AFP) - Scientists have discovered a new species of lizard at a national park in Peru, experts said on Tuesday.

The new species, named Potamites erythrocularis, was located in the upper part of Manu National Park in Peru's southeast Cusco region, the environmental ministry said.

The new species "differs from the others by having messy keeled scales on the back, undivided frontonasal scales, a red ring around the

eye in males and absence of femoral pores in females," it said.

The research was led by scientists Alessandro Catenazzi and German Chavez and a team of biologists and rangers of the Manu National Park, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The tropical forest in the lower tiers is home to an unrivaled variety of animal and plant species, according to the United Nations.

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## Australia to buy surveillance drones to patrol borders

SYDNEY (AFP) - Australia announced plans Thursday for a fleet of giant high-tech unmanned drones to help patrol the nation's borders, monitoring energy infrastructure and attempts to enter the country illegally.

Prime Minister Tony Abbott said the Triton Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, which can remain airborne for 33 hours, would be based in the southern city of Adelaide.

A report in February said seven of the US-made drones would be purchased for Aus\$3.0 billion (US\$2.7 billion), but Abbott said the details of how many, when they will be bought and the costs had yet to be finalised.



Australia, a close ally of the United States, is expected to use the drones to patrol far over the Indian Ocean, which has become one of the world's most vital energy supply routes.

They could also be used to detect illegal fishermen and asylum-seekers, who frequently enter Australian waters to the north on rickety boats, usually setting sail from Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

The announcement comes just weeks after Canberra said it would buy eight new Poseidon aircraft for Aus\$4 billion to form the core of its surveillance and maritime strike capacity for decades to come.

The use of large unmanned aircraft patrolling the nation's borders has been mulled for a decade but the previous Labor government would not sign off on the concept as it reportedly believed the technology was not mature enough.

## Facebook TV: Video ads now interrupting your News Feed



NEW YORK - the company said Thursday that Facebook will gradually introduce 15-second video ads that auto play in News Feed to its 1.23 billion members following a three-month test of the product.

The new ads, called "Premium Video Ads," are modeled after television spots and are meant to give advertisers with deep pockets -- ads re-

portedly cost anywhere from \$1 million to \$2.5 million per day -- access to the broadest swath of Facebook users at specific intervals during the day.

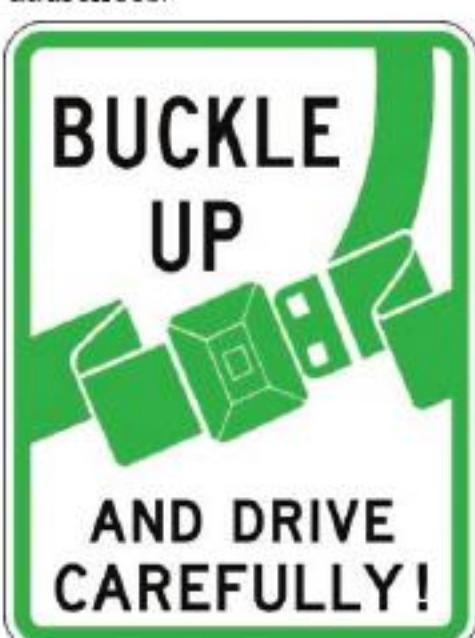
Video ads play without sound when they appear on the screen. Members can scroll past an ad, or they can tap an ad to expand the video into full-screen view and hear sound.

People can expect to begin seeing these new ads in their Web and mobile News Feed over the next few months, Facebook said. The company is currently working only with a small number of advertisers as it continues to monitor how members respond to the ads.

Unlike the other ads you find on Facebook, Premium Video Ads are being vetted for creative quality and "watchability" before they reach your

feed. Facebook said it's working with a company called Ace Metrix to review the premium spots before they go live on the social network.

The effort is part of Facebook's mission to get advertising's biggest spenders to view its network as a better and more versatile medium than television for reaching target audiences.



# US senators strike deal to extend jobless insurance

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US senators struck a bipartisan deal Thursday that would reinstate emergency benefits for two million of America's long-term unemployed, easing a months-long congressional impasse.

A group of 10 senators thrashed out the agreement, which would extend for five more months the benefits that ran out in late 2013 amid congressional bickering over how the insurance would be paid for.

President Barack Obama had pushed hard for an extension of the emergency benefits last year but the effort fell apart, leaving 1.3 million jobless in the lurch when their standard 26 weeks of jobless aid expired.

Lawmakers stressed that the latest compromise is fully paid for, in part through "pension smoothing" provisions that were set to expire, and by

an extension of customs user fees through 2024.

It would also include skills assessment and referral programs to help get people back into the workforce, and would bar all millionaires from collecting the unemployment insurance.

The cost of the current compromise was not immediately clear, but a proposed three-month extension that failed to pass Congress in December carried a price tag of \$6.5 billion.

"We're not at the finish line yet, but this is a bipartisan breakthrough," Democratic Senator Jack Reed, an architect of the deal, said in a statement.

The measure will likely need to clear a 60-vote threshold in the 100-member Senate before going to the Republican-controlled House of Representatives, where it could face opposition from fiscal conservatives.

But lawmakers sounded confident that the agreement they worked out had traction.

"Restoring this much-needed economic lifeline will help job seekers, boost our economy, and provide a little certainty to families, businesses, and the markets that Congress is capable of coming together to do the right thing," Reed added.

Senator Dean Heller, the agreement's chief Republican author, applauded colleagues on both sides.

"This deal extends these important benefits for five months, pays for them, and brings buy-in from both sides of the aisle," he said.

House Speaker John Boehner, who has said he would be open to extending the benefits if they were paid for in full, has not immediately reacted to the bipartisan compromise.

## Workers sue McDonald's for stealing wages

NEW YORK (AFP) - US workers yesterday accused fast-food giant McDonald's of systematically stealing wages through illicit practices like forcing them to work off-the-clock and failing to pay overtime.

Seven class-action lawsuits were filed Wednesday and Thursday in California, Michigan and New York demanding that McDonald's pay back the stolen wages and end the practices that violate state and federal laws, lawyers representing the workers said.

McDonald's Corporation is named in all seven lawsuits, while franchisees were included in five of them.

The lawsuits argue that McDonald's, which took in nearly

\$5.6 billion in profits last year, regularly fails to compensate its already low-paid workers for all the hours they work.

It allegedly forced employees to work off-the-clock, failed to pay them overtime, shaved hours off time cards, and deprived employees of timely meal and rest breaks, among other practices.

"We've uncovered several unlawful schemes, but they all share a common purpose -- to drive labor costs down by stealing wages from McDonald's workers," Michael Rubin of Altshuler Berzon, who filed the California suits, said in a statement.

"These suits have been filed to stop this widespread employee pay theft," Joseph Sell-

ers, of Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll, co-counsel in the lawsuits filed in California and New York, said in a conference call.

Fast-food workers, some of the worst-paid in the US economy, have been campaigning for higher wages in recent years. Last August thousands of workers went on strike at McDonald's and other fast-food restaurants in 60 cities across the nation seeking a minimum wage of \$15 an hour and the right to form a union without retaliation by their employer.

President Barack Obama currently is pushing to raise the \$7.25 federal minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour, but is facing fierce opposition from Republicans in Congress.

Sellers said the class-action suits in the three states cover more than 30,000 McDonald's workers.

### YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

MAC		ELIZA	FEE
ARR		DIVES	EAT
SKI		SLEEP	ARC
		MEETS	HARSH
SPILL		TAP	
WINK		SWELTERS	
ATA	FLOAT	KIA	
BALLOONS		WISP	
	ORB	BANKS	
PRISM	PRONG		
LAB	ABIES	OUT	
AVE	LISAS	USA	
YET	SCARY	TEX	



DENVER: A cannabis plant greets job seekers as they sign in at CannaSearch, Colorado's first cannabis job fair, on March 13, 2014 in Denver, Colorado. O.PenVAPE, the largest national brand in cannabis, held the first of its kind Cannabis Job Fair hoping to match applicants with businesses in the Colorado marijuana industry. (AFP)

<b>Daily Exchange Rates</b>				
Current as of: 03/13/2014	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.59	1.61	1.63
Britain	GBP	2.91	2.96	3.02
Switzerland	CHF	204.11	204.83	205.63
Netherlands	EUR	246.07	248.31	250.81
Sweden	SEK	27.08	27.80	28.60
Denmark	DKK	32.32	33.04	33.84
Norway	NOK	29.10	29.82	30.62
Japan	JPY	171.72	173.28	175.02
(per 10,000)				

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## IMF ready to start aid negotiations with the Ukraine

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The International Monetary Fund said yesterday it was ready to launch aid negotiations with the Ukraine.

"The IMF fact-finding mission working in Kiev since March 4 has made good progress in assessing the situation," IMF managing director Christine Lagarde said in a statement. "Following an informal briefing today of the IMF's Executive Board, management has asked the team to stay in Kiev and begin a process of negotiation."

The team is discussing conditions for a Europe and US-backed rescue loan with the Ukrainian authorities, as tensions mount over Russia's military incursion into Crimea.

Lagarde said the IMF team would work with the authorities to develop a reform program "that will result in sound economic governance and sus-

tainable growth, while protecting the vulnerable in society."

The mission plans to wrap up its work by March 21, she said.

Officials of the new Ukraine government have said they need at least \$15 billion, which could include contributions from Europe, to stabilize and restructure their finances, left in shambles by the ousted government of Viktor Yanukovych.

Lagarde met on Wednesday with Ukraine's interim prime minister, Arseniy Yatsenyuk, in Washington.

"We are keen to help Ukraine on its path to economic stability and prosperity," she said after their meeting. "In that context, the IMF will continue to consult with its membership and other international financial institutions on how best to support the people of the Ukraine."



FRANCE, Kogenheim : An exceptional 109-meter long and 6,65-meter large convoy carrying a giant gas turbine weighting 390 tons, crosses a road in the French eastern city of Kogenheim, on March 11, 2014. The turbine made by US company General Electric based in Belfort, eastern France, will travel one week by road, before being loaded onboard a barge on the Rhine river in Strasbourg, to reach the harbor of Anvers, Belgium. From there it will join the US harbor of Savannah (Georgia), before a last rail and road trip to the General Electric test center of Greenville (South Carolina), only spot able to test such kind of turbines. AFP PHOTO

## COMICS

## PICKLES



## MOMMA

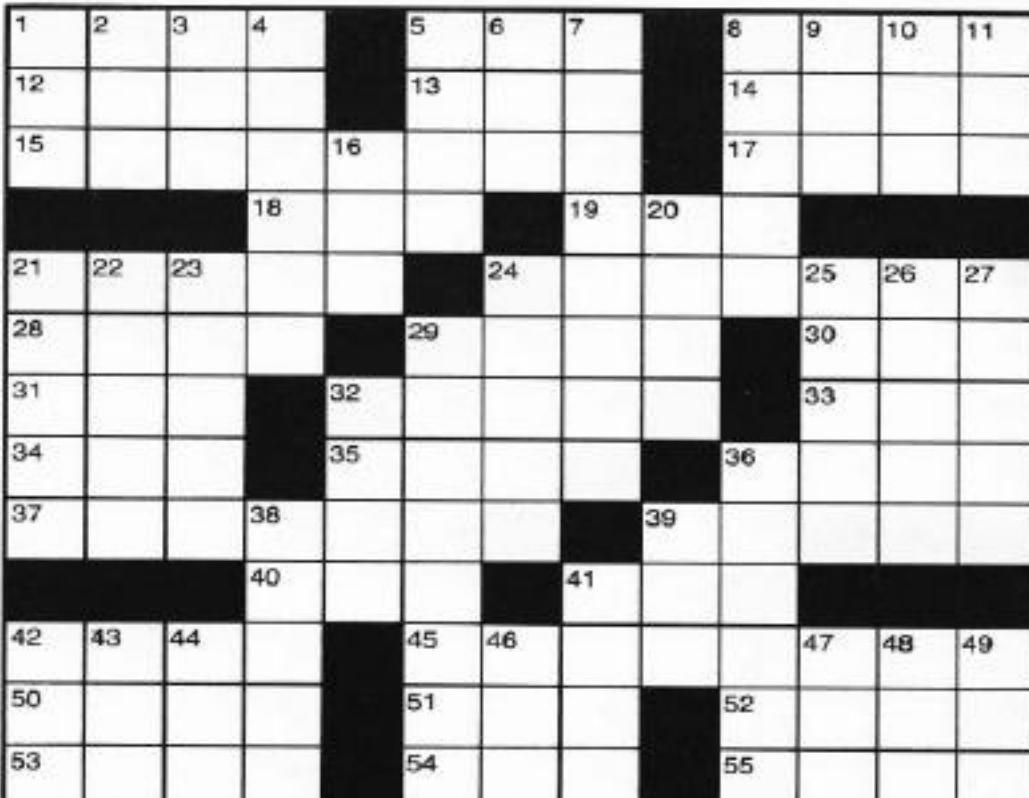


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## ACROSS

- Nibble
- Common word
- Actor Everett
- Prima donna
- Actor Harrison
- Gardener's item
- Resolute
- Milit. branch
- Take it on the
- Ewe's mister
- Underwear name
- Popular pet rodents
- Help
- Cupola
- Fixed charge
- Inexperienced
- Goodyear products
- Crooner "King" Cole
- Superlative suffix
- Witches
- OshKosh B'
- Telegram's contents
- Destructive insects
- Telecast
- Pregrown lawn
- October gemstone

## DOWN

- LP alternatives
- Big success
- Zsa Zsa's sister
- Money holder
- British streetcar
- Serene
- Forefather
- Run easily
- "Tell \_\_\_ story" (2 wds.)
- Shout of dismay (2 wds.)
- Regard
- U.S.A.'s "Uncle"
- Where shares are traded (abbr.)
- Highness
- Outermost points
- Smidgen of bread
- Contains
- Alias initials
- "ABC" followers
- Had existence
- Greek war god
- Sultan's entourage
- Humiliate
- Gingrich and others
- Deep ravine
- Or else (2 wds.)
- Dog walker's need
- Actors Rogen and Green

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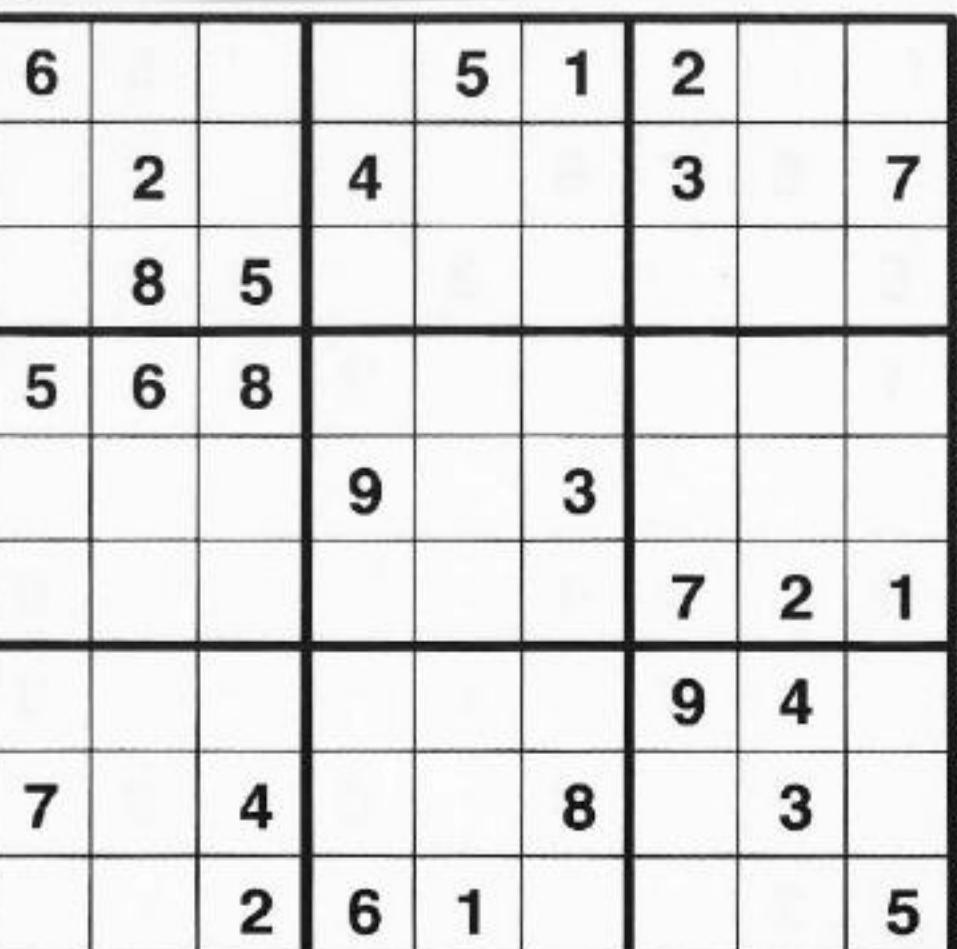
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 EMERGENCY  
 Telephone 911  
 POLICE HDQS  
 Telephone 100

TAXI  
 C.V. TAS  
 587-1998, 587-5900  
 In Oranjestad:  
 Tel. 582-2116, 582-1604  
 582-5447  
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## Sudoku



## SOLUTION

9	3	2	6	1	4	8	7	5
7	5	4	2	9	8	1	3	6
8	1	6	5	3	7	9	4	2
4	9	3	8	6	5	7	2	1
2	7	1	9	4	3	5	6	8
5	6	8	1	7	2	4	9	3
3	8	5	7	2	9	6	3	5
1	2	9	4	8	6	3	5	7
6	4	7	3	5	1	2	8	9

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9  
 A number is Never repeated in a row or column.  
 In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

## 5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



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--A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on para-

dise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an internationally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at

8am, patrons can now order 2 eggs any style (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) and toast for a price of only \$4.99 or All You Can Eat Pancakes for \$6.99! A new plate called the "Home Run" comes with 2 eggs, bacon or sausage, 2 pancakes, toast & home fries - for only \$9.99! Best of all - unlimited coffee or tea - that is, refillable and never ending is only \$7.99! Breakfast is served from 8am until noon. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on; after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie; so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda, Farmer's or Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice

beef), and a Western Burger with Aaron's secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jalapeño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are



ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to

watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

**5 Burger's is now open early until 10-ish Sunday-Thursday; and until 3am on Friday & Saturdays.**

**Delivery is available to most Hotels and most beaches!** Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality, it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat, sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal.

## Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they feel secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our



concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of

Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area, also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services pro-

gram. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their spe-

cific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property, not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas, 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

**Visit their website: [www.goldcoastaruba.com](http://www.goldcoastaruba.com) for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.**

## Tennis: St. Louis named to host US-France Fed Cup tie

NEW YORK (AFP) - France and the United States will meet next month at St. Louis in the Fed Cup world group play-off, the US Tennis Association announced Thursday.

The match between top women's players will be staged April 19-20 on an indoor hard-court at St. Louis University's Chaifetz Arena.

The winners qualify for next year's Fed Cup world group while the losers are relegated to the second tier, a fate the Americans have suffered only once in 42 Fed Cup events.

"We have veteran players in Serena and Venus Williams who are available to play as well as many strong, up-and-coming young Americans," US Fed Cup captain Mary Joe Fernandez said.

The Williams sisters, sidelined by injuries in last month's US home quarter-final loss to



**Madison Keys (right) and Lauren Davis both made their Fed Cup debut against Italy in February.**

Italy, led the US to victory over Sweden in a 2013 home qualifier to reach this year's world group.

The Americans, 37-5 in all-time Fed Cup ties at US venues, are 11-1 in their rivalry

with France, the only defeat coming in 2003 at Moscow when the French won 4-1.

The US women won their most recent matchup 4-1 in a 2010 quarter-final on indoor clay at Lievin, France.

## Anger over Pistorius trial Interpreters

PRETORIA (AFP) - Interpreting blunders at Oscar Pistorius's murder trial have seen witnesses lost in translation and left translators outside the court furious.

With 11 official languages you could expect South Africa's courts to be well equipped to handle testimony in whatever the tongue.

But during two weeks of testimony in the State vs. Oscar Leonard Carl Pistorius, a string of Afrikaans speaking witnesses have been forced to switch to English to avoid being misinterpreted.

"This is the grossest incorrect interpreting that I've seen or heard in a long time," said Johan Blaauw, chairman of the South African Translators' Institute.

His organisation is so outraged it has offered to supply an accredited interpreter free of charge, but is still awaiting the court's response.

Signs of trouble have been there from the first day.

One court-appointed interpreter -- perhaps cognisant of the whirlwind that engulfed a fake sign language interpreter at Nelson Mandela's memorial -- reportedly fled after learning she was to work on such a high-profile case.

During the first week of the trial, Pistorius's neighbour, Michelle Burger, began to testify in Afrikaans about hearing screams and gunshots on the night of Reeva Steenkamp's death, but was forced to stop to correct the struggling interpreter.

When Burger said events after the shooting were "deurmekaar" it was translated as "confused" prompting defence lawyers suggest her recollection of events might also be confused.

Burger was forced to explain she meant "chaotic" and later opted to switch to English instead.

On Thursday when former police officer Gilian van Rensburg took the stand there

was yet more evidence of bungling.

Again speaking in Afrikaans, Van Rensburg described finding the lifeless body of the athlete's girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp covered in towels, which were rendered "hand clothes" by the interpreter.

Several witnesses and experts are Afrikaans speaking -- the culture of predominantly Dutch descendants is still strong in the South African capital Pretoria.

Despite being able to communicate in English, many, like Burger, chose to testify in Afrikaans because they felt more at ease in their mother tongue.

Like Burger, others also switched to English mid-testimony or even mid-sentence out of frustration at poor interpreting.

Lawyers for the prosecution and the defence have also interrupted proceedings to correct translations.

Experts worry these errors may have serious consequences for the trial.

Preparations have been made to allow Oscar Pistorius's murder trial to sit two weeks longer than planned, the prosecution said Thursday, as the planned March 20 end date looks increasingly unrealistic.

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## Paralympics Briefs:



**SOCHI (AFP)** - Armenia's Mher Avanesyan (LW 5/7-1) competes in the Men's Alpine Skiing Slalom Standing during the XI Paralympic Olympic games at the Rosa Khutor Alpine Center near Sochi yesterday.



**SOCHI (AFP)** - Russia's Roman Petushkov (C) celebrates his victory at the end of the Men's 1 km Sprint Sitting at XI Paralympic Olympic games in the Laura stadium close to city of Sochi yesterday.



**SOCHI (AFP)** - Canada's Caleb Brousseau (LW 12-1) competes in the men's Alpine Skiing Slalom Sitting event during the XI Paralympic winter games at the Rosa Khutor Alpine Center close to the city of Sochi yesterday.

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## Football: Bale impressed by standard of La Liga

MADRID (AFP) - Real Madrid winger Gareth Bale has lauded the technical standard of La Liga in comparison to the Premier League just six months into his career with the Spanish giants.

The Welshman joined Real for a reported 91 million euros (\$126 million, £76 million) from Tottenham Hotspur in September after being crowned as the Premier League's best player by his fellow professionals and the football writers last season due to his stunning performances.

However, he is enjoying the change to a less physical style of play in Spain and has been impressed by the willingness of even some of the sides struggling at the bottom of the table to try and play a passing game.



"The big difference is the tactical play and the way all teams play a lot of good football. There are no long balls like there are in England," he said on Thursday.

"That is the biggest thing about Spain, it is all passing and movement. It has been a new experience which I am obviously learning from and enjoying."

"All the teams, no matter if they are at the top or the bottom, try to play football. It is exciting, it is a great league and it is great to be playing here."

A series of niggling injuries plagued Bale's start to the campaign, but his return to fitness and form has coincided with Real embarking on a 29-game unbeaten run stretching back to October.

Barcelona's surprise 1-0 defeat to Valladolid last weekend allowed Real to open up a four-point gap on their eternal rivals at the top of the table.

However, Bale is taking nothing for granted as he targets three trophies in his first season in the Spanish capital.

"Obviously we are in a very good position at the moment, but there are still 11 games left to go."

"We need to take every

game as it comes and concentrate only on our own performances. Hopefully we can keep playing well and achieve our goals."

Real face Barca twice in the next month in La Liga and the Copa del Rey final and could even meet four times in 25 days if they are drawn together in the quarter-finals of the Champions League.

Barca booked their place in the quarters on Wednesday with a 4-1 aggregate win over Manchester City.

Madrid, meanwhile, are practically in the last eight too as they lead Schalke 6-1 from the first leg of their tie in Germany and Bale is sure they will face a tougher test in the next round.

"The Champions League is full of great teams, every team left in the competition can potentially win it."

"The tournament is really wide open and it just depends on who takes their chances."

Bale has managed to rack up 14 goals and 11 assists in just 25 appearances in La Liga and the Champions League so far this campaign, but he is sure there is more to come having overcome the initial challenges of a change in lifestyle when moving countries.

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## Bayern Munich president Hoeness jailed for tax fraud

MUNICH (AFP) - A German court Thursday sentenced football legend Uli Hoeness, president of powerhouse club Bayern Munich, to three and a half years in jail for major tax fraud.

The verdict for cheating the German state out of 28.5 million euros (\$39.5 million) spelled the likely end of the career of the former star player whose trial has captivated football-obsessed Germany.

Hoeness, 62, had admitted to hiding his wealth in secret Swiss bank accounts while obsessively "gambling" on stock and currency markets for years.

After the verdict, a visibly shaken Hoeness was allowed to walk out of the packed Munich courtroom, with his arrest warrant temporarily suspended while an appeal is pending.

The judge pointed out that Hoeness had since 2009 failed to turn himself in and only delivered a hasty and flawed declaration in early 2013 when

authorities and journalists were already on his case.

Prosecutors, who had sought a five-and-a-half-year term, said they had not yet decided whether to also appeal.

Interest has been huge in the case, with newspapers giving it front-page treatment and people lining up outside the courtroom from early morning to get a seat in the visitors gallery.

Tens of thousands shared their views on Twitter, both for and against the judgement. One of them, former pro footballer Hans Sarpei, tweeted: "A bad verdict for Hoeness, a good one for Germany's many millions of honest taxpayers."

Hoeness -- who also co-founded a lucrative sausage business and has long been a conservative TV talk-show regular -- had stayed on as president and board chairman of the European club since the scandal broke a year ago. Bayern Munich made no immediate statement on the verdict.

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## Brazil minister slams anti-Cup protests



BRASÍLIA (AFP) - Brazil's Minister for Sport Aldo Rebelo on Thursday criticized anti-World Cup demonstrators, insisting they would not disrupt the tournament starting June 12.

Brazil has witnessed months of protests against the estimated \$11 billion price-tag for the tournament, with demonstrators saying the money would have better spent on improving poor public services.

Noting protesters often chant "there will be no Cup," Rebelo told foreign correspondents in Brasilia that everyone should get behind the five-time champions' first hosting of the event in 64 years.

"I do not believe the campaigns will have an effect (of derailing the organization) or that there will be large demonstrations against the Cup," Rebelo insisted.

"The big demonstration will be one of celebration of the Cup," he forecast, criticizing "sections of the media, who think they can offer space (to cover) this kind of ill will," an allusion to the protest marches.

Recent protests have been small but some have turned violent with anarchist groups known as Black Bloc clashing with police.

Rebelo said he believed most people would back the tournament.

"The population will protect the Cup. The World Cup is a feast of world football which protects itself," said Rebelo, drawing a parallel with the just-ended Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, where political protests faded once the event began.

Rebelo also insisted that the three stadiums which are not yet complete -- Cuiaba, Curitiba and June 12 opening match venue Sao Paulo -- will be ready in time, despite severe delays.

"Measures have been adopted to boost the pace of work and we are banking on delivery of the stadiums not just (in time for) the Cup but also for test events, which are important," he said.

Cuiaba is set for an April 2 inauguration with Sao Paulo, scene of a fatal accident which killed two workers in November, set for April 15.

Curitiba, having just avoided being cut from the venue list, is due to follow in early May.

Asked to assess the possibility of hooliganism disrupting the month-long event Rebelo said: "That concern exists -- we are vigilant. We shall adopt measures to prevent the presence and actions of violent supporters."

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## NBA: Pierce powers Nets to another win over struggling Heat

MIAMI (AFP) - Paul Pierce tallied 17 of his 29 points in the third quarter as the Brooklyn Nets continued their mastery over reigning NBA champ Miami Heat with a nail-biting 96-95 win Wednesday.

The 36-year-old Pierce paced the offence for the Nets who have beat the Heat in all three meetings this season and snapped an eight-game losing streak at AmericanAirlines Arena.

Miami had the ball after a timeout with 3.5 seconds left, but Shaun Livingston knocked away a pass that was intended for LeBron James in front of the basket to ice the victory in front of a crowd of 19,616.

Pierce said two-time defending National Basketball Association champion Heat have lost their "fear factor."

Pierce spent his first 15 NBA seasons with the Boston Celtics who drafted him 10th overall in the 1998 entry draft.

Pierce came to the Nets this season as part of a blockbuster trade between Boston and Brooklyn that also saw the Nets get Kevin Garnett and Jason Terry.

Both previous wins over the Heat this season were in New York. Brooklyn edged the Heat 101-100 on November 1



as part of their 5-14 start and then won 104-95 in double overtime on January 10.

Despite a slow start to the season, the Nets are hoping that this nine-game home win streak will give them confidence down the stretch and into the postseason. They were expected to challenge for the top spot in the East but the struggles and injuries had slowed their progress.

The Nets played without Garnett who missed his seventh straight game on Wednesday. Andrei Kirilenko also didn't play because of a sprained ankle.

Chris Bosh tallied 24 points while Dwyane Wade scored 22 for the Heat who have lost four of their last five games.

James finished with just 19 points on six-of-13 shooting from the field for the Heat, who had their six-game home winning streak halted.

"That's obviously a tough one to lose here at home," said Miami coach Erik Spoelstra. "The turnovers going down the stretch in the fourth quarter hamstrung us."

Miami clinched a playoff berth with a 99-90 win over the Washington Wizards in their last outing.